

Minutes

The Oklahoma State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners met on November 6, 2021. The special meeting was held consistent with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. Advance notice of this meeting was transmitted to the Oklahoma Secretary of State on October 21, 2021, and posted on the Board's website on November 1, 2021 at 10:57 a.m., in compliance with 25 O.S. § 311.9.

Members in attendance:

Jeremy Mason, DPM, President
Bradley Nelson, DPM, Vice-President
Kenneth Golda, DPM
Nicole Cupp, DPM
Angela Schuff, DPM
*Ms. LaFaye Austin, Public Member

Others in attendance:

Lyle Kelsey, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Medical Board
Barbara Smith, Executive Secretary for the Oklahoma Medical Board
Lisa Cullen, Director of Licensing for the Oklahoma Medical Board
Valeska Barr, Assistant Director of Licensing for the Oklahoma Medical Board
Thomas Schneider, Assistant Attorney General and Board Advisor

Having noted a quorum, Dr. Mason called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Following review, Dr. Nelson moved to approve the meeting minutes of the May 21, 2021 Virtual Amended Meeting. Dr. Cupp seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

BRYAN BLANCK, DPM, did not appear virtually to discuss obtaining virtual/online CMEs for the current compliance cycle. Dr. Cupp moved to table the matter pending a personal appearance. Dr. Mason seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

TRACY HJELMSTAD appeared virtually in support of his application for reinstatement of DPM licensure. His Oklahoma license expired June 30, 2018 and he last practiced in March of 2018. The applicant replied he has worked for a foot and ankle expert company and coordinated all the lectures and bone labs for the podiatrists. He completed 16 CME hours a few weeks ago, but he believes he has kept up with the practice of podiatry through his employment. He stated that his license expired due to his practice collapsing financially because of a divorce. He was questioned regarding the steps he took to close his practice and if patients had access to their records.

Mr. Schneider stated that since this should be considered as an initial application, the applicant cannot be required to obtain CMEs and the only avenue for the applicant to be licensed will be through retaking the licensure examination.

*Ms. Austin joined the meeting.

The applicant was further questioned regarding how he will financially support a new practice. And finally the Board also expressed concern about patient abandonment. The applicant stated that he has been in discussions with HealthMark Physician Services. They provide services at nursing homes and advanced care centers and he would be an employee. He does not wish to open a private practice at this time.

Dr. Nelson moved to review the application. After discussion, Dr. Nelson withdrew his motion.

Following discussion, **DR. NELSON RECUSED** and **MS. AUSTIN RECUSED**. A quorum remained with four members present.

Following additional discussion, Dr. Mason moved to approve the application of **TRACY HJELMSTAD** pending completion of the file and successfully completing the licensure examination. Dr. Schuff seconded the motion and the vote is recorded below:

Dr. Mason:	Yes
Dr. Golda:	Yes
Dr. Cupp:	Yes
Dr. Schuff:	Yes

The motion carried.

BRYAN BLANCK, DPM, was able to establish a connection and appeared virtually to discuss obtaining virtual/online CMEs for the current compliance cycle. He has 92 CMEs which have been submitted. They were obtained virtually pursuant to Board action taken in its August 2020 meeting. Dr. Nelson moved to accept the virtual CMEs obtained prior to June 30, 2021 as being in full compliance with this cycle. Dr. Mason seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Dr. Nelson opened a discussion regarding **CME Credits/Extensions**. When the Board adopted an extension in its August 2020 meeting, it was done so under the authority of the Executive Order that was in place due to the health emergency. That emergency has since been lifted. The Board clarified that if licensees received their required CME hours virtually prior to the emergency expiring, they are considered compliant for this compliance cycle. If they did not receive their required CME hours prior to the emergency expiring, they are still allowed to obtain 10 CMEs virtually for this compliance cycle.

Dr. Schuff announced that the state association would not be offering an **online makeup course at the end of the CME cycle**. She advised that OKPMA will send out notification to begin completing CME hours. Mr. Schneider pointed out that the Board has discretion to find a “hardship” under 545:20-3-1(d).

Mr. Kelsey presented the **FY 2022 Contract for Services with the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision**. Dr. Schuff moved to approve the contract as presented. Dr. Cupp seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

There being no further business, Dr. Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting. The time was 10:10 a.m.